

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

STEVEN T. LOO,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:24-cr-00072-LK

ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED  
MOTION TO SEAL AND REDACT  
TRIAL EXHIBITS

This matter comes before the Court on the Government’s Unopposed Motion to Seal and Redact Admitted Trial Exhibits. Dkt. No. 140. Mr. Loo has not responded to the motion.

The jury returned its verdict on July 11, 2025. Dkt. No. 132. On July 28, 2025, the Government filed this motion alongside the admitted trial exhibits, Dkt. No. 141, and the sealed admitted trial exhibits, Dkt. Nos. 142–147.

“Historically, courts have recognized a ‘general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents.’” *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435

1 U.S. 589, 597 & n.7 (1978)). District courts therefore “start with a strong presumption in favor of  
2 access to court records.” *Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1135 (9th Cir.  
3 2003). Despite the public’s right to access documents in criminal proceedings, a document may  
4 remain under seal when (1) sealing a document serves a compelling interest (2) that is substantially  
5 likely to be harmed if the document is not sealed and (3) there are no less restrictive alternatives  
6 for protecting the interest. *See United States v. Parson*, No. 3:15-cr-05262-DGE, 2022 WL  
7 558221, at \*2 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 24, 2022) (citing *United States v. Doe*, 870 F.3d 991, 998 (9th  
8 Cir. 2017)).

9 In addition, this district’s General Order No. 01-18 permits parties to file under seal “any  
10 confidential exhibits admitted at trial . . . utilizing the Court’s existing methods for filing  
11 documents under seal.” Local Criminal Rule 49.1 requires parties seeking to seal documents—  
12 other than those specifically listed in subpart (d)—to file a motion before or at the same time the  
13 party files the sealed materials. LCrR 49.1(e). Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1(a) requires  
14 parties to redact certain sensitive information from publicly filed documents, including portions of  
15 financial-account numbers, taxpayer-identification numbers, and home addresses.

16 The Government avers that “[s]everal voluminous exhibits admitted at trial display  
17 unredacted financial account numbers, home addresses and tax identification numbers,” and “[t]he  
18 parties agree that these exhibits should remain sealed.” Dkt. No. 140 at 2. Additionally, as the  
19 Government notes, *id.*, the Court approved the Government’s request to file all bulk financial  
20 records under seal due to the voluminous size of size of the exhibits, and because the information  
21 in the exhibits was presented almost entirely through summary chart exhibits that will not be  
22 sealed. The Governments also states that other documents it seeks to seal contain “an unredacted  
23 financial account [number], an unredacted tax identification number, or an address.” *Id.*

1 Having reviewed the records, the Court finds that the records that the Government seeks to  
2 seal and redact contain tax returns, financial ledgers, banking statements, financial account  
3 numbers, tax identification numbers, and home addresses. Protecting Mr. Loo's privacy serves a  
4 compelling interest that would be harmed by public disclosure. *See, e.g., Maliwat v. Scott*, No.  
5 2:25-cv-00788-TMC, 2025 WL 1311338, at \*5 (W.D. Wash. May 6, 2025) (finding compelling  
6 reasons to seal documents containing home addresses and financial records); *Evitt v. Experian*  
7 *Info. Sols. Inc.*, No. 3:23-CV-05294-LK, 2024 WL 2274314, at \*2 (W.D. Wash. May 20, 2024)  
8 (finding compelling reasons to seal financial information); *Delashaw v. Seattle Times Co.*, No.  
9 C18-537-JLR, 2020 WL 6818720, at \*3 (W.D. Wash. May 28, 2020) (noting that courts routinely  
10 seal tax returns). In addition, given that confidential financial and tax information pervade the  
11 sealed documents, there is no less restrictive means of protecting Mr. Loo's privacy.

12 Accordingly the Court finds good cause to maintain the following trial exhibits under seal:  
13 282, 402, 403, 404, 405, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 600, 601, 602, 603,  
14 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631,  
15 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650,  
16 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669,  
17 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688,  
18 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833,  
19 834, 835, 836, 904, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 928, 934, 937, 938.

20 In addition, redacted versions of the following exhibits shall be available on the public  
21 docket: 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019,  
22 020, 021, 022, 023, 024, 025,<sup>1</sup> 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 042, 043, 044, 045,  
23

24 <sup>1</sup> This exhibit is listed as "205" in the Government's motion; however, given the chronological listing of the exhibit numbers in the motion and the fact that exhibit 205 was not admitted, the Court assumes that "025" is correct.

046, 047, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 060, 061, 062, 066, 067, 068, 075, 077,  
 078, 079, 080, 081, 083, 084, 085, 094, 097, 102, 103, 104, 108, 109, 110, 114, 115, 116, 117,  
 118, 119, 121, 122, 123, 200, 202, 206, 210, 211, 215, 216, 218, 220, 221, 224, 226, 227, 228,  
 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 235, 238, 239, 243, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 253, 254, 255, 258, 259,  
 262, 263, 264, 266, 267, 271, 273, 274, 277, 278, 281, 284, 285, 286, 289, 290, 291, 293, 296,  
 297, 299, 300, 310, 311, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 401, 407, 434, 446, 447, 448, 449, 452,  
 453, 461, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 474, 475, 476, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 500, 502,  
 504, 510, 512, 535, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 701, 705, 710, 715, 719, 721,  
 722, 723, 733, 734, 739, 740, 745, 748, 751, 752, 754, 755, 756, 759, 762, 764, 765, 766, 767,  
 768, 769, 770, 772, 773, 774, 779, 780, 781, 782, 805, 806,<sup>2</sup> 817, 950, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959,  
 960, 962, 963, 965, 966, 967, 971, 974, 977, 978, 979, 981, 983, 984, 987, 990, 994, 1000, 1001,  
 1505, 1522, 1530, 1534, 1535, 1538, 1539, 1560, 1563, 1575 (Admitted for Limited Purpose),  
 1589, 1591, 1596, 1606, 1607, 1632, 1648, 1652, 1682, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1697,  
 1696, 1730, 1736, 1737, 1753, 1753A, 1755, 1762, 1763, 1777, 1783, 1798, 1805, 1874, 1883,  
 1940, 1949, 1950, 1952.

Accordingly, the Court GRANTS the Government's Unopposed Motion to Seal and Redact  
 Admitted Trial Exhibits. Dkt. No. 140.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2025.



Lauren King  
 United States District Judge

<sup>2</sup> This exhibit is listed as "706" in the Government's motion; however, given the chronological listing of the exhibit numbers in the motion and the fact that exhibit 706 was not admitted, the Court assumes that "806" is correct.